

ABSTRACT

A cleavable signal element for use in quantitative and qualitative assay devices and methods is described.

5 Binding of the chosen analyte simultaneously to a first and a second analyte-specific side member of the cleavable signal element tethers the signal-responsive moiety to the signal element's substrate-attaching end, despite subsequent
10 cleavage at the cleavage site that lies intermediate the first and second side members. Assay devices comprising the cleavable signal elements are described, as are analytic methods adapted to their use. The analytic devices of the present invention may be adapted to detection using conventional CD-ROM and DVD readers.

15

20

25

30

35